

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for performing cell load control in a mobile radio network using diversity connections between base stations, comprising the steps of:

a) transmitting a load information of a radio cell from a first radio network controller serving said radio cell to a second radio network controller not serving said radio cell, wherein said load information is transmitted in response to a load request issued by said second radio network controller; and

b) using said load information in said second radio network controller for deciding on a load status of said radio cell.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said load status is used for deciding on an admission of said radio cell for handover of a mobile terminal controlled by the second radio network controller.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said load information is transmitted, when a load level of said radio cell has reached a predetermined load threshold.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 4, wherein said second radio network controller commands a controlled mobile terminal to replace or delete a branch to said second cell, in response to said load information.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~3~~ 2, wherein said load request is issued on the basis of a measurement of a neighbor cell supported by said mobile terminal.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~3~~ 2, wherein said load request is issued, when said radio cell is included in an active set or a candidate set of said mobile terminal, said active set or candidate set being used for determining radio cells for the handover of said mobile terminal.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 7, wherein said load request is issued, when said mobile terminal has transmitted a request to said second radio network controller to add said radio cell to said active set.

9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 7, wherein said admission decision is directed to an admission or deletion of said radio cell in the active set of said mobile terminal.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3 1, wherein a periodical load information is transmitted in response to said load request.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said radio cell is located adjacent to an area served by said second network controller.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said load information includes a transmission power level and a received interference level of said radio cell.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said mobile radio network is a radio access network of the UMTS.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said load status is used for deciding on an amount of capacity which can be allocated to a user.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said load status is used for deciding when to order a mobile terminal to switch to a dedicated channel state.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein said mobile terminal is ordered to switch to said dedicated channel, when said load status indicates an overload

of a common channel.

17. (Currently Amended) A system for performing cell load control in a mobile radio network using diversity connections between base stations, comprising:

a) a first radio network controller comprising transmitting means arranged for transmitting a load information of a radio cell served by said first radio network controller to a second radio network controller not serving said radio cell, wherein said load information is transmitted in response to a load request issued by said radio controller; and

b) said second radio network controller comprising a receiving means arranged for receiving said load information, and a decision means arranged for deciding on a load status of said radio cell.

18. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 17, wherein said load status is used for deciding on an admission of said radio cell for a handover of a mobile terminal controlled by said second radio network controller.

19. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 17, wherein said first radio network controller comprises a determination means for determining a load level of said radio cell and for generating said load information.

20. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 19, wherein said determination means controls said transmitting means so as to transmit said load information, when the load level of said radio cell has reached a predetermined load threshold.

21. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 19, wherein said first radio network controller comprises a receiving means for receiving a said load request transmitted by a transmitting means of said second radio network controller, wherein said determination means is arranged to control said transmitting means of said first radio network controller to transmit said load information when said load request has been received by said receiving means.

22. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 21, wherein said determination means is arranged to periodically determine said load information and to control said transmitting means of said first radio network controller to periodically transmit said load information.

23. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 19, wherein said determination means is arranged to determine said load information on the basis of a load parameter received by said first radio network controller from a base station of said radio cell.

24. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 17, wherein said mobile radio network is a radio access network of the UMTS.

25. (Original) A system according to claim 17, wherein said load status is used for deciding on an amount of capacity which can be allocated to a user.

26. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 17, wherein said load status is used for deciding when to order a mobile terminal controlled by said second radio network controller to switch to a dedicated channel state.

27. (Original) A system according to claim 26, wherein said mobile terminal is ordered to switch to said dedicated channel, when said load status indicates an overload of a common channel.

28. (Previously Presented) A radio network controller used as said first or second radio network controller in a system according to claim 17.